

INTRODUCTION.

This work is intended to furnish information respecting the Government, population, finances, commerce and general statistics of the Dominion, and to form an authentic reference book for all persons interested in such matters.

The sources of the information used in this work, in so far as relates to Canada, are official; and, for the most part, from Departmental reports. The tables have all been carefully prepared, and most of them are entirely new; much of the information contained in them not having before been published in Canada. Great care has been taken with the calculations, which have all been made in the Statistical Office of the Department of Agriculture, and it is believed they will be found correct. But it is possible that in so many figures, errors may have crept in, typographical or other; and it is hoped that if any such should be detected, they will be reported to this office.

There being no means in Canada, by which the changes in the population between the census years, can be ascertained with any degree of accuracy, no attempt has been made to estimate such changes, except for the purpose of certain calculations, and for this, the population of the Dominion has been logarithmically estimated for each fiscal year since Confederation. The figures thus obtained, as given on page 104, are those which have been used in all calculations throughout the book. The populations of the several Provinces since 1881 have been estimated in the same manner.

The financial, commercial and most of the other tables are brought to the close of the fiscal year, 30th June, 1885. On some subjects, however, information is given to 31st December, 1885, and with reference to the Canadian Pacific Railway, to 2nd June, 1886.

The figures relating to the United Kingdom, British Possessions and foreign countries, have, in most cases, been taken from the Statistical Abstracts prepared by Mr. Robt. Giffen, of the Imperial Board of Trade. Reference has also been made to the Statesman's Year Book, Victorian Year Book, (published by Mr. H. H. Hayter, the Statist of the Government of Victoria, Australia, the method of which has been largely